



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural
Statistics

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 18

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Major crops continued to progress towards good growth and development, according to Indiana Agricultural Statistics. Straight line winds along with strong thunderstorms moved through portions of the state during the week causing minor damage to crops and loss of electricity. Corn fields continue to enter into the pollination stage of development. Planting of double crop soybeans is virtually complete. Many farmers were attending local county fairs and taking vacations.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.0 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Eighty-two percent of the corn acreage has **silked** compared to 29 percent last year and 52 percent for the average. Ten percent of the corn acreage has reached the **dough** stage compared with 1 percent last year and 4 percent for the average. Corn **condition** is rated 75 percent good to excellent compared with 51 percent last year at this time.

Sixty-seven percent of the soybean acreage is **blooming** compared with 32 percent last year and 55 percent for the average. Twenty-two percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared with 4 percent last year and 15 percent for the average. Soybean **condition** is rated 69 percent good to excellent compared with 49 percent last year at this time.

Ninety-nine percent of the winter wheat acreage is **harvested** compared with 80 percent last year and 95 percent for the average. Second cutting of **alfalfa hay** is 68 percent complete compared with 53 percent last year and 75 percent for the average.

Other activities during the week were repairing equipment, scouting fields, mowing roads and pastures, moving grain to market, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 16 percent excellent, 60 percent good, 19 percent fair, 4 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition. The cooler temperatures have helped the livestock.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Silked	82	61	29	52
Corn in Dough	10	3	1	4
Soybeans Blooming	67	43	32	55
Soybeans Podding	22	8	4	15
Alfalfa Second Cutting	68	45	53	75
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	96	80	95

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	3	5	17	53	22
Soybean	3	6	22	52	17
Pasture	1	4	19	60	16

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	1	1
Short	14	16	6
Adequate	76	75	56
Surplus	9	8	37
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	0	1
Short	15	13	8
Adequate	78	80	62
Surplus	6	7	29
Days Suitable	5.0	5.4	4.2

CONTACT INFORMATION

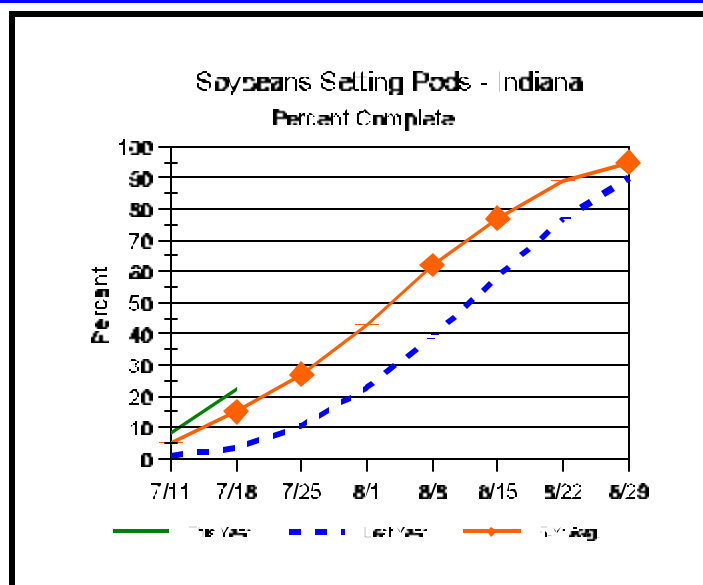
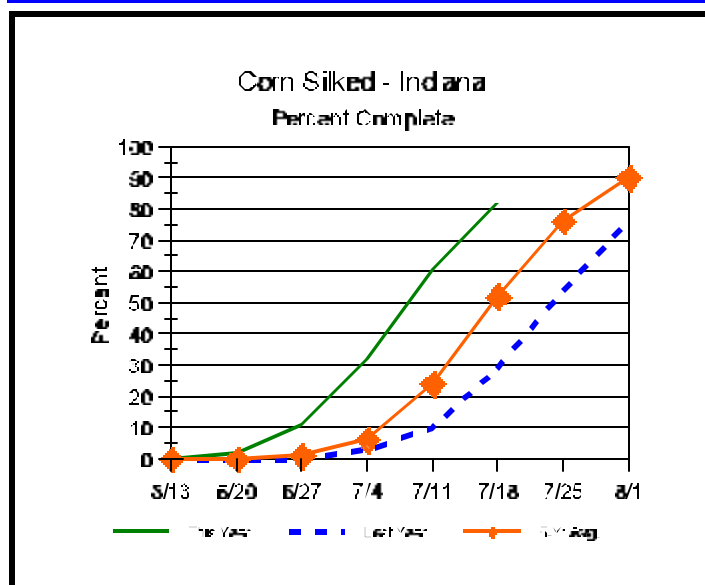
--Greg Preston, Director

--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

First Spider Mite Report Received

- Spider mites may or may not be the cause of discolored soybean plants
- Rain indirectly helps slow or control spider mites
- Consider many factors before treating spider mites

While some fields in the state are still draining off the excess from gully-washers a couple weeks ago, some areas could use some moisture. This became evident when I received a call from Mark Evans, Owen County Extension Educator, about spider mites in soybean. He was alerted to the mites presence by the discoloration of the plants along the field edges. His question was, can treating of borders prevent damage throughout the field? Unfortunately, there's not an easy answer.

Before considering control, it is very important that spider mites are identified as the source of the problem. Shake some discolored soybean leaves over a white piece of paper. Watch for small dark specks moving about on the paper. Also look for minute webbing on the undersides of the discolored leaves. Once spider mites have been positively identified in the damaged areas of the field, it is essential that the whole field be scouted to determine the range of infestation. Sample in at least five

different areas of the field and determine how far the spider mites have moved into the field from the grassy borders by using the "shake" method.

Stressed plants actually provide a better nutritional feast for spider mites thus they thrive and quickly colonize areas or whole fields. The best spider mite control is to eliminate plant stress, this is easier said than done. Sandy or high clay soils will express moisture stress first in the plants, with or without the presence of spider mites. Other stresses on soybean include pests such as soybean cyst nematode or nutritional imbalances, such as manganese deficiency. Obviously the best plant stress reliever under dry conditions is rain.

Rain indirectly controls spider mites. Pounding rains can physically beat spider mites off the plants where they meet their doom by drowning or to ground dwelling predators. More importantly, rains increase humidity that slows the spider mite reproduction and favors pathogenic fungi. Several days of relative humidity above 70% may induce an epizootic wiping out the spider mite population. On the other hand, warm temperatures and low humidity returning after rain may only delay the spider mite infestation. Above all else, significant rain helps the soybean crop to grow and provides less of a "protein broth" for the spider mites.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday July 18, 2004

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air			Precip.			Avg	April 1, 2004 thru				
	Temperature						4 in	July 18, 2004				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	89	57	73	-2	1.34	2	72	20.38	+6.85	39	1584	-7
Valparaiso_AP_I	86	59	72	-2	0.49	4		12.12	-2.33	43	1483	+67
Wanatah	87	54	71	-3	0.41	4	78	11.21	-2.72	46	1397	+46
Wheatfield	87	55	72	-2	1.61	3		23.68	+10.01	50	1461	+70
Winamac	86	56	71	-2	1.53	3	75	15.55	+1.85	48	1520	+68
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	87	58	72	-3	0.64	5		14.35	+0.00	47	1461	-53
South_Bend	86	58	72	-1	0.99	4		14.12	+0.71	48	1545	+146
Young_America	89	57	72	-3	1.56	3		17.63	+4.48	41	1623	+143
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	86	55	71	-2	0.46	2	76	14.27	+0.77	50	1465	+132
Fort_Wayne	87	58	72	-3	0.54	2		15.29	+2.86	46	1589	+119
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	89	57	72	-4	2.72	2		17.48	+2.21	45	1626	-60
Perrysville	89	58	73	-2	0.79	2	80	15.28	+0.49	37	1794	+215
Spencer_Ag	88	59	74	-2	1.44	3		19.55	+3.85	50	1756	+181
Terre_Haute_AFB	89	59	74	-3	1.41	4		13.46	-1.39	41	1904	+220
W_Lafayette_6NW	88	56	72	-2	0.50	4	81	18.79	+5.20	34	1638	+154
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	90	60	74	-2	0.66	4		13.29	-0.50	46	1799	+132
Greenfield	87	58	73	-3	0.45	4		15.36	+0.39	48	1709	+123
Indianapolis_AP	87	61	74	-2	0.65	3		17.35	+3.56	44	1885	+218
Indianapolis_SE	87	59	73	-4	0.60	3		14.50	+0.24	40	1726	+82
Tipton_Ag	87	57	72	-3	0.66	3	79	14.15	+0.51	44	1569	+135
East Central (6)												
Farmland	87	57	72	-2	0.55	1	71	14.46	+0.75	45	1614	+224
New_Castle	85	53	70	-5	0.28	2		16.30	+1.33	37	1429	+6
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	93	64	77	-2	2.08	3		17.52	+2.89	39	2162	+189
Freelandville	90	62	75	-2	3.64	3		16.77	+1.67	41	1919	+172
Shoals	89	60	75	-2	2.26	4		20.08	+3.83	45	1918	+245
Stendal	92	64	77	-1	2.77	4		18.54	+2.28	42	2054	+214
Vincennes_5NE	91	62	76	-1	2.16	5		18.00	+2.90	50	1998	+251
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	91	62	75	+0	3.14	4		24.82	+8.41	49	1936	+265
Oolitic	88	60	75	+0	1.70	4	78	19.50	+4.10	50	1804	+213
Tell_City	93	65	78	+0	1.85	3		23.40	+7.02	44	2179	+319
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	90	57	75	+1	1.36	3		13.02	-1.70	39	1796	+304
Milan_5NE	89	58	74	-1	1.27	5		18.66	+3.94	63	1783	+291
Scottsburg	89	58	74	-3	4.39	2		28.47	+13.30	47	1889	+158

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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First Spider Mite Report Received (Continued)

Reduction of crop yield is directly related to duration and intensity of the mite attack. The most severe damage occurs when the infestation starts in the early stages of plant growth and builds throughout the season (extended drought). Before applying controls carefully consider that, depending when damage is noted, multiple insecticide applications may be necessary. This is because surviving spider mites are able to repopulate a field faster than can the natural predators that are often prevalent in infested fields. If leaf discoloration is apparent, spider mites are positively identified as the culprit, and hot, dry conditions are expected to persist, it is recommended that a control be considered. Spot treatment may be effective if infestations are caught early enough and the mites have not yet moved across the field. Success of spot treatments depends on spraying beyond the infested area, not just the discolored plants. Spray a buffer zone of at least 200 feet beyond colonized plants.

If a control is warranted, two pesticides are recommended for use. These include dimethoate (Dimethoate 400 and 4 EC) and chlorpyrifos (Lorsban 4E). Proper placement of these pesticides is the key to successful control results. Nozzle pressures of 40 psi and 30-40 gallons of water per acre for ground application helps distribute the pesticide throughout the foliage. If using aerial application, the control material should be applied in 3-5 gallons of finished spray per acre. Normally, aerial applications are not as efficacious as ground applications due to limited surface-area coverage. So where possible, use ground application. Also, research has shown that mite controls work best in the early morning or evening hours. This is primarily due to more stable weather conditions, less convection currents and evaporation, resulting in better targeting of the pesticide.

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